

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the present amendments, upon entry of the amendments requested in Applicants' submission of December 7, 2004, claims 2-10, 12, 14-27, 35, 36, and 38-50 were pending in this application. The present amendment cancels claims 6-8, 14-20, 23-26, 38-48, and 50, and amends claims 9, 21, 22, 27, and 49. All amendments are of formal nature, or incorporate recitations originally present in dependent claims now canceled, and serve to present the claims in better form for examination and/or address issues raised in the Office Action or during telephone interview with the Examiner. Accordingly, all claim amendments are fully supported by the disclosure as originally filed, and do not add new matter.

Telephone Interview

Applicants wish to express their thanks to the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the outstanding rejections and Applicants' response dated December 7, 2004 during two telephone interviews between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney. During the interviews, the status of claims was discussed. The Examiner indicated that claims 2-8 and 49, and possibly claims 35-36 are allowable; claim 9 is considered to be too broad and thus not enabled; claims 41 and 50 are not vague; claim 38 raises written description issues; and claims 39 and 44-48 will not be rejoined with the claims under examination.

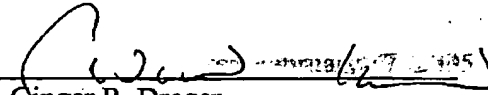
Without acquiescing to the indicated rejections, or the reasons for maintaining the rejections, and solely to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants submit additional claim amendments with the present Supplemental Amendment and Response. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue any deleted subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

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It is believed that upon entry of the present amendments all claims will be in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 17, 2005


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